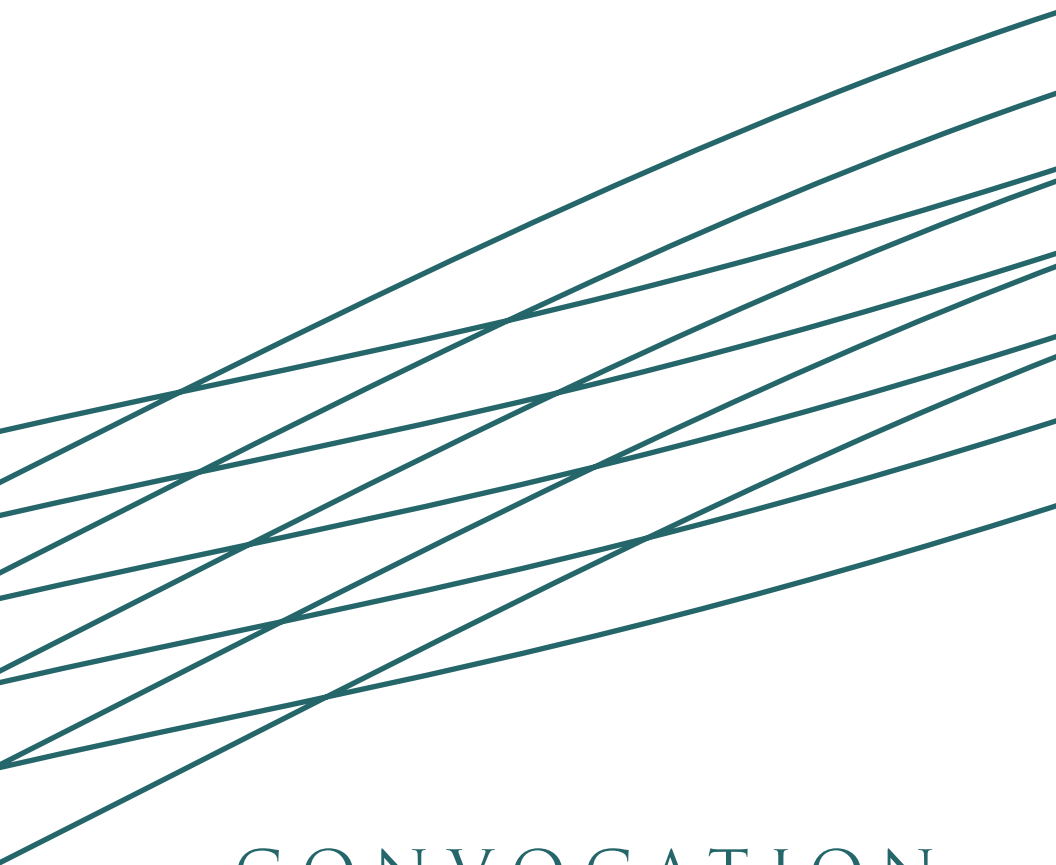


THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY



CONVOCATION
FOR CONFERRING DEGREES • 2020

VIRTUAL CEREMONY
THURSDAY, THE ELEVENTH OF JUNE, 2020

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

NEW CASTLE BRASS QUINTET

WELCOMING REMARKS

RICHARD P. LIFTON, M.D., PH.D.

PRESIDENT AND CARSON FAMILY PROFESSOR

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DEAN OF GRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS

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ALZATTA FOGG

Alzatta Fogg has been a beloved member of the Rockefeller University community for 60 years. Always a beacon of warmth, kindness, and friendship, she is an exemplar of the civility and collegiality that distinguish this university's culture. Ms. Fogg joined Rockefeller as a waitress in August 1960 and moved swiftly through the ranks to serve as assistant supervisor and then manager, first in the Welch Hall and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Dining Rooms, then the Weiss Research Building Cafeteria and, finally, returning to the Abby Dining Room.

During her years at the university, Ms. Fogg has brought a very special human touch to Rockefeller. Her generous welcome and brilliant smile have disarmed everyone she encounters—from first time visitors to resident Nobel laureates—and helped them all to feel more a part of the university family. She still presides over the Abby several days a week, lifting the spirits of diners with her characteristic blend of courtesy and charm.

When Ms. Fogg first arrived at Rockefeller, the graduate program was only five years old. She quickly became a friend and mentor to many of the students. Over the years, she has nurtured generations of doctoral and postdoctoral fellows, serving as counsellor in times of stress and co-celebrant in times of joy. With unflagging dedication, sage advice, and good humor, she has also supported the faculty, administrators, and university presidents, earning the love and admiration of the entire Rockefeller community.

In 2001, Ms. Fogg was named an honorary alumna of the university. She remains the only person in Rockefeller's history to have received this distinction. In the almost two decades since, she has continued to inspire a deep sense of loyalty to the university and its mission.

Born in Savannah, Georgia, Ms. Fogg came to New York City as a young child in 1942 and has called the city home ever since. She is a quintessential New Yorker who enjoys music and loves the theatre and visiting museums. Ms. Fogg is actively involved in her community as a volunteer and a member of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ and she is the mother of two daughters – Wanda and Regina.

TORSTEN N. WIESEL, M.D., F.R.S.

Torsten Wiesel's discoveries have revolutionized understanding of the brain's structure, function, and development. In 1981, while at Harvard University, he and his colleague David Hubel shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine, which recognized their discoveries about how the cerebral cortex receives and processes visual information. Their work revealed the cellular organization of the cerebral cortex and also led to improved therapies for children born with certain vision disorders.

Dr. Wiesel joined Rockefeller in 1983 to lead a new laboratory of neurobiology as the university's Vincent and Brooke Astor Professor. From 1992 to 1998, he served as Rockefeller's seventh president, guiding the university to a scientific renaissance. Dr. Wiesel's presidency was transformative, and programs he established continue to serve as the foundation for the university's success. This important work includes expanding Rockefeller's tenure-track faculty, establishing the modern philanthropy program, and launching the Women & Science initiative.

For more than 20 years, since stepping down as president, Dr. Wiesel has been a vital presence on campus, serving as a trusted friend, valued mentor, and esteemed advisor to scientists and staff alike. As co-director of the Shelby White and Leon Levy Center for Mind, Brain and Behavior, he continues to foster excellence in neuroscience at Rockefeller.

Over the years, Dr. Wiesel has played a major role as an international science advocate, supporting interdisciplinary basic research in the life sciences. He has also worked tirelessly on behalf of global human rights. He is a former chair of the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, and was a founding member of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies. He has been affiliated with numerous other prestigious organizations.

In addition to the Nobel Prize, Dr. Wiesel has received the U.S. National Medal of Honor and many other accolades, including an honorary degree from Rockefeller. In 2005, the National Academies awarded him the David Rall Medal, recognizing his distinguished leadership of the Academies' Committee on Human Rights, which he chaired from 1994 to 2004.

MARNIE S. PILLSBURY

Marnie S. Pillsbury has been a dedicated and highly esteemed member of the Rockefeller University community for three decades. After an outstanding tenure as a trustee and vice chair of the board, she was elected a trustee emerita of the university last year.

Ms. Pillsbury has made extraordinary and lasting contributions to the university and society at large. She served as chief philanthropic advisor to David Rockefeller from 1990 until his death in 2017, and then as an advisor to his estate. Working closely with Mr. Rockefeller, she helped guide his philanthropy to have maximum impact at the myriad organizations he supported, substantially amplifying the effectiveness of his charitable giving. From 1990 until 2014, Ms. Pillsbury served as executive director of The David Rockefeller Fund.

As a Rockefeller trustee from 1998 to 2019, Ms. Pillsbury brought strong leadership, superb strategic acumen, a deep knowledge of the university, and exceptional dedication to her board responsibilities. Her astute guidance as vice chair of the board from 2005 to 2019 was a significant factor in the university's success during a period of great achievement. Her service over the years on a remarkable seven committees of the board—Audit, Compensation, Development, Educational Affairs, Executive, Facilities and Infrastructure, and Nominating and Governance—immeasurably strengthened the university. Rockefeller University was fortunate to call upon her wisdom and financial acumen in 2008, when, as chair of the Audit Committee, she helped steer the institution through a historic financial downturn. As vice chair of the Development Committee, she introduced the university's work to many new friends and benefactors. In addition, she helped launch and sustain the university's premier affinity groups, Women & Science and Parents & Science.

Marnie Pillsbury is a trustee of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the International Women's Health Coalition, and the Center for Curatorial Leadership. She is secretary of The Pinkerton Foundation, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the International Council at The Museum of Modern Art.

A graduate of Wellesley College, Ms. Pillsbury received an M.B.A. from New York University's Stern School of Business.

LUCY SHAPIRO, P.H.D.

Lucy Shapiro has applied her intellect, her capacity to think in three dimensions, and her love of science to illuminate the cell cycle's temporal and spatial choreography. Born and raised in Brooklyn, she defied her parents' expectation that she would gain entry to the High School of Music and Art in New York City based on her musical skills. Instead, she secretly learned to draw and secured admission based on her artistic talents. At Brooklyn College, she majored in biology and fine arts, thinking she would pursue a career in medical illustration. That plan got derailed when she was convinced to take an organic chemistry class by Rockefeller's own Ted Shedlovsky.

Hooked by the intellectual rigor of the topic and its visual nature, she decided to study the chemistry of life. As a graduate student, Shapiro discovered an RNA-dependent RNA polymerase, and she earned her Ph.D. at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Soon afterward, she accepted a faculty position at Einstein and launched her own lab. In 1989, she became a professor at Stanford University where she founded a new Department of Developmental Biology, and has directed the Beckman Center for Molecular and Genetic Medicine since 2001.

Her research has probed how cells translate a nucleic acid molecule's linear code into three-dimensional activities and how they differentially read that same genetic code to produce physiologically distinct offspring. Using the bacterium *Caulobacter crescentus*, she has mapped a multitude of mechanisms by which the cell functions as an integrated network as it divides. These findings have illuminated the exquisite precision that single-celled creatures deploy as they place specific components that perform specific tasks at specific sites and times. Her insights into bacterial asymmetry have shed light on the development of complex organisms.

In collaboration with Stephen Benkovic, she designed a new class of antimicrobial compounds that are based on boron rather than carbon. Two of these drugs have reached the market, and the team is now expanding this approach from medicine to agriculture.

Shapiro served as a White House advisor on bioterrorism threats, and she has won numerous awards and honors, including the National Medal of Science, the Gairdner Award, the Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize, and the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize.

Founded in 1901, The Rockefeller University is a world-renowned center for research and graduate education in the biomedical and physical sciences. The university's some 75 laboratories conduct research on a broad range of biological and biomedical questions with the mission of improving the understanding of life for the benefit of humanity. Over the years, Rockefeller has been the site of many historic breakthroughs, including the landmark discovery that genes are made of DNA. Twenty-five researchers associated with Rockefeller throughout its history have been awarded the Nobel Prize.

The graduate program, with a unique curriculum that emphasizes independent research, began in 1955 and was named in honor of David Rockefeller in 2005. Since the first convocation in 1959, The Rockefeller University has granted doctor of philosophy degrees to 1,322 individuals – including 30 students who will receive their Ph.D. degrees today.

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